

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:ABERGSTROM:LLC

APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:JBISHOP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161510

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY US

SUBJECT: U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS: EMERGING DIALOGUE

REFS: (A) STATE 122753, (B) STATE 110042, (C) STATE 144691

1. LIBYAN CHARGE AL MADFA'I DEPARTS WASHINGTON FOR TRIPOLI
CONSULTATIONS JUNE 22 AND EXPECTS TO CALL ON YOU TO
CONTINUE EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE ON U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS.
MADFA'I EXPECTS TO SEE QADHAFI AS WELL AS TURAYKI. STATUS
OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MADFA'I AND KHIKYA FOLLOWS:

A. IN RESPONSE UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S OFFER TO SEE
KHIKYA TO RECEIVE MESSAGE FOR SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT,
KHIKYA SAID QADHAFI'S LETTER NOW PROBABLY OUT OF DATE, AND
THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT TRIPOLI ON THE MATTER. WE
TOLD KHIKYA (THROUGH MADFA'I) THAT WE WERE IN NO WAY
SOLICITING A LETTER BUT MERELY RESPONDING TO HIS COMPLAINT

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THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE.

B. OUR CONVERSATIONS ON U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST WERE
BASED ON SAUNDERS' JUNE 12 STATEMENT TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

ON EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST (CARRIED WIRELESS FILE).
MADFA'I HAS A COPY.

C. AT AL MADFAI'S REQUEST, WE GAVE HIM FOLLOWING LETTER
FROM BISHOP SUMMARIZING OUR CONVERSATIONS: QUOTE:

DEAR MR. AL MADFAI:

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST, I AM PLEASED TO SEND YOU
THIS OUTLINE OF THE U.S.GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WHICH HAVE
BEEN CONVEYED TO YOU IN YOUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH
UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, MR. BERGSTROM, AND MYSELF.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY NORMAL RELATIONS
OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
LIBYA. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXPECT OTHER
NATIONS TO AGREE WITH ALL AMERICAN POLICIES AS A CONDITION
FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOOD RELATIONS. IN FACT, THE UNITED
STATES HAS IMPORTANT TIES WITH NATIONS WITH WHICH THERE
IS DISAGREEMENT ON SIGNIFICANT POLICY ISSUES.

FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THE PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENTS TO
NORMALIZATION OF LIBYAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE YOUR
GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ITS
INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORING STATES. WE
HAVE CITED SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF ACTIONS TO WHICH
WE REFER, HOPEFULLY MAKING IT CLEAR THAT OUR OBJECTION IS
NOT TO LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS PER SE, BUT TO
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THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS SUPPORT TAKES THE FORM OF LIBYAN
KNOWING INVOLVEMENT WITH THOSE AMONG THE PALESTINIANS
WHO ENGAGE IN ACTS OF TERRORISM, SUCH AS HIJACKINGS, THE
TAKING OF HOSTAGES AND THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS.
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ALSO RECOGNIZES THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT
PERCEIVES THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN TERMS QUITE
DIFFERENT FROM THOSE MOTIVATING AMERICAN POLICY.

WHILE DISAGREEMENT ON THOSE TWO ISSUES BARS FULL
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, WE STILL BELIEVE THERE ARE
AREAS IN WHICH MUTUAL COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE AND
DESIRABLE. WE ARE PLEASED YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN TO
EDUCATE MANY YOUNG LIBYANS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WE
ARE PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU IN FACILITATING
THEIR ENTRY TO THIS COUNTRY AND IN RESOLVING SUCH PROBLEMS
AS MAY ARISE DURING THEIR STUDIES HERE.

WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES OF OUR
ECONOMIC RELATIONS. DUE TO THE DIFFERENCES TO WHICH I
ALREADY REFERRED, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THE

SHIPMENT OF ARMS, OR OF NOMINALLY CIVILIAN EQUIPMENT WITH

A SIGNIFICANT CAPACITY FOR MILITARY USE. BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PUTS NO OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF OTHER DEALINGS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT. IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, WE BELIEVE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY TO HELP INCREASE DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION.

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO SAY THAT WE HAVE WELCOMED THE DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WHICH YOU HAVE MANIFESTED SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON. WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU IN EFFORTS TO CLARIFY ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MAY EXIST BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE DISAGREEMENTS WHICH EXIST. SINCERELY, JAMES K. BISHOP. UNQUOTE.

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2. WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ANY BASIC IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH QADHAFI REGIME OR IN MODERATING ITS DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE

SET FORTH FRANKLY OUR POSITIONS ON THE PROBLEMS IN U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS IN RESPONSE TO AL MADFA'S FREQUENTLY STATED DESIRE TO IMPROVE BILATERAL TIES. VANCE

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